

Message Text

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11
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
----- 084995
R 240645Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
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S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 14319

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, LA, CB
SUBJECT: REPORTED KHMER NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING

REF: PHNOM PENH 14138

1. TRANSMITTED BELOW IS OUR TRANSLATION OF SIGNIFICANT
EXTRACTS FROM A MEMORANDUM PREPARED BY COL. LIM SISAAT
IN DEFENSE AGAINST CHARGES OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING
FROM KHONG ISLAND. A COPY OF THIS "SECRET/CONFIDENTIAL"
MEMORANDUM WAS PROVIDED US BY THE FANK GENERAL STAFF.

2. BEGIN TEXT. ON NOVEMBER 25, 1973, TAKING ADVANTAGE
OF A FLIGHT TRANSPORTING GIFTS AND AID TO OUR REFUGEES
IN LAOS, I WENT TO MOEUNG KHONG TO SETTLE DEBTS TO LAOTIANS
WHICH KHMER MILITARY HAD INCURRED BEFORE THEIR EVACUATION
FROM THE ISLAND. THE AIRCRAFT LEFT PHNOM PENH AT 1030 HOURS
WITH A CARGO OF SARONGS, CLOTHING, SALT, SARDINES, DRIED
FISH, FARMING EQUIPMENT, ETC. AND ARRIVED AT
KHONG AT 1140 HOURS.

AFTER UNLOADING THE MATERIAL, THE DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE
BEGAN WORK WHILE THE CREW WENT TO THE MARKET TO GET SOME
REFRESHMENTS AND D Y SMALL OBJECTS AND SUPPLIES. I
MYSELF WENT TO ONE OF MY RELATIVES WHERE I PAID OFF THE
CREDITORS OF OUR SOLDIERS.

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THE RETURN WAS SCHEDULED FOR 1330 HOURS BECAUSE ON
THAT DAY I WAS TO ATTEND THE CREMATION OF MAJOR TY HUN.
WHEN I RETURNED TO THE AIR FIELD I FOUND AROUND 50 CASES
OF CIGARETTES (I DID'T KNOW THE EXACT NUMBER AS RSAM

NOT AT ALL INTERESTED IN THAT MATTER). THE CASES HAD BEEN EXAMINED DOWN TO THE CARTONS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF COL. SOULATH, COMMANDER OF THE SITHANDONE SUBDIVISION. THIS EXAMINATION IN AS MUCH AS IT IS SERIOUS IS THE CONSEQUENCE OF COMPETITION BETWEEN TWO CLIQUES OF OFFICERS WHO WISH TO UNDERTAKE THIS SORT OF COMMERCE: THE CLIQUE OF COLONEL SOULATH AND THAT OF COLONEL KHAMSOUK. SEEING THAT ALL THIS EXAMINATION WOULD DELAY THE TAKE OFF, I GAVE THE ORDER TO THE PILOTS TO LEAVE WITHOUT LOADING ANY CASES OF CIGARETTES. ALL THE CASES WERE LEFT AT THE AIRFIELD. I MYSELF WAS ONLY ABLE TO BUY FOUR CARTONS OF 555 AND FOUR BOTTLES OF JOHNNY WALKER. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ALL OUR BAGGAGE WAS ALSO EXAMINED BY THE LAO CUSTOMS AND POLICE. THEREFORE THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF TRANSPORTING ILLICIT CIGARETTES OR NARCOTICS. END TEXT ENDERS

SECRET

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